

Titus 3:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

Analysis

Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates—ὑπομίμνησκε (hypomimnēske, remind/put in remembrance) αὐτοὺς ἀρχαῖς ἐξουσίαις ὑποτάσσεσθαι (autous archais exousiais hypotassesthai, them to submit to rulers and authorities). πειθαρχεῖν (peitharchein, obey/be persuaded by rulers). Civil submission is Christian duty, not optional (Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-17).

To be ready to every good work (πρὸς πᾶν ἔργον ἀγαθὸν ἑτοίμους εἶναι, pros pan ergon agathon hetoimous einai)—ἑτοιμος (hetoimos, ready/prepared). Christians should be society's most useful citizens, eager for common-grace good works benefiting all. This counters the charge that Christianity produced useless otherworldly mystics. Believers serve earthly authorities while awaiting the heavenly King.

Historical Context

Roman governance provided infrastructure (roads, aqueducts, law courts, military protection) enabling gospel spread. Christians benefited from pax Romana while anticipating Christ's kingdom. Later, when emperors like Nero persecuted Christians, the same submission principle applied (1 Peter 2:18-20)—suffering unjustly for Christ's sake, not revolutionary resistance.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Do you submit to governing authorities (even flawed ones) as unto the Lord, or does political tribalism override biblical commands?
2. Are you ready for every good work in your community—volunteering, serving, helping—or do you only focus on church activities?
3. How do you balance submission to civil authority with ultimate allegiance to Christ when they conflict (Acts 5:29)?

Interlinear Text

ὑπομίμησκε	αὐτοὺς	ἀρχαῖς	καὶ	ἐξουσίαις	
Put G5279	them G846	to principalities G746	and G2532	powers G1849	
ὑποτάσσεσθαι	πειθαρχεῖν	πρὸς	πᾶν	ἔργον	ἀγαθὸν
to be subject G5293	to obey magistrates G3980	to G4314	every G3956	work G2041	good G18
ἐτοίμους	εἶναι				
ready G2092	to be G1511				

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 10:4 (Parallel theme): If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.

Proverbs 24:21 (Parallel theme): My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:

Matthew 22:21 (Parallel theme): They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

2 Timothy 2:21 (Good): If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Hebrews 13:21 (Good): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (Parallel theme): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Timothy 2:2 (Parallel theme): For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

1 Timothy 4:6 (Good): If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

1 Timothy 5:10 (Good): Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

Titus 2:14 (Good): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.